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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of December, 1988)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters continued to decrease during the month of December. The land crew total decreased by thirteen to 114 and the marine crew total decreased by one for a net decrease of fourteen crews to a total of 141. The seismic crew count survey was instigated in May, 1974, and the previous low was 150 total crews in March of 1974.

The December total (141) represents a decrease of 9% from last month, a 29% decrease from December, 1987, a 10% decrease from December, 1986, a 57% decrease from December, 1985, a 70% decrease from December, 1984, a 71% decrease from December, 1983, and a decrease of 70% from the same month in 1982.

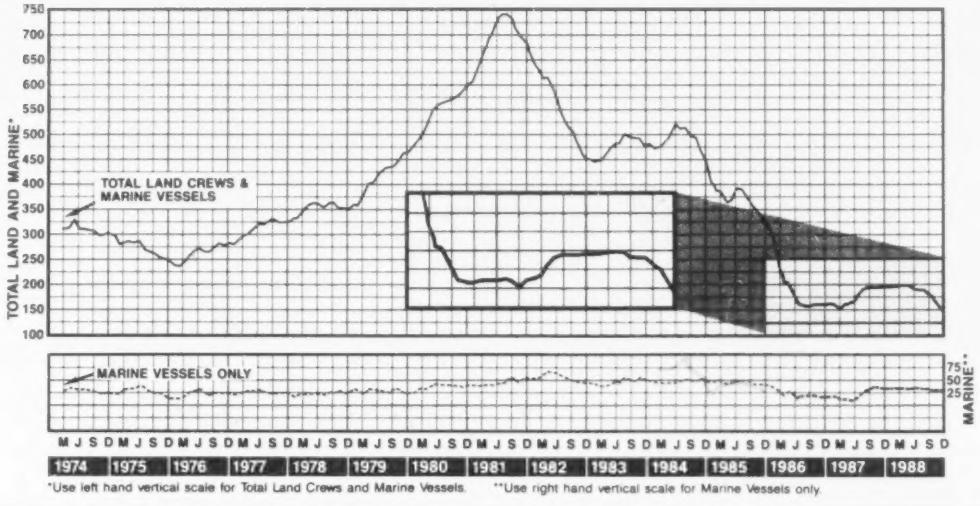
During December, four contractors were operating three of the 100 land crews and three of the twenty-four marine vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Dec.'87	Dec.'86	Dec.'85	Dec.'84	Dec. 83	Dec.'82
	141	155	199	157	326	466	493	477

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1984	Dec. 1983	Dec. 1982	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1984	Dec. 1983	Dec. 1982
31 Contr's:	100	114	157	121	255	378	408	386	24	25	24	15	33	44	41	42
7 Oil Co's:	14	13	15	18	32	36	37	42	3	3	3	3	6	8	7	7
1 Gov't:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	114	127	172	139	287	414	445	428	27	28	27	18	39	52	48	49

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

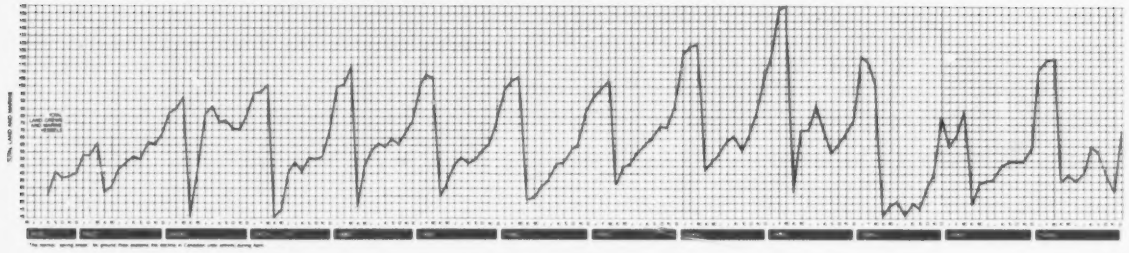
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

December, 1988 (November figures in parentheses)

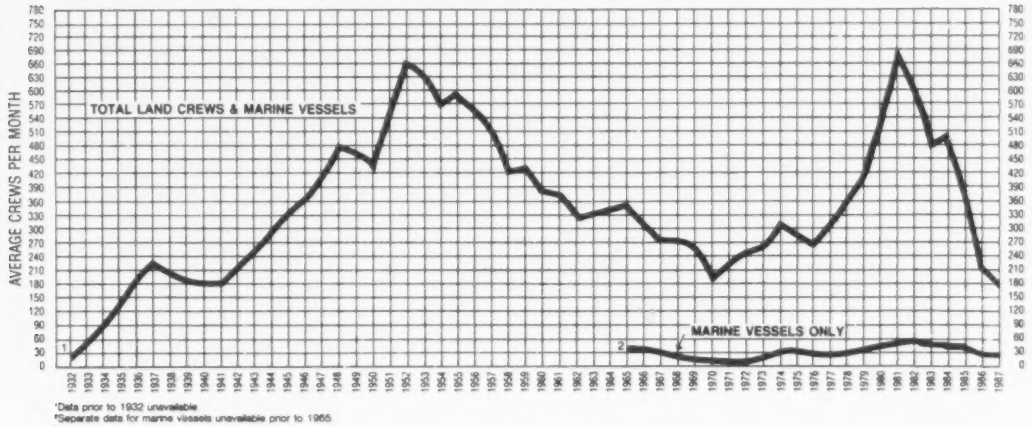
	Land Crews	Marine Crews
32 Contractors:	67 (26)	0 (0)
1 Oil Company:	2 (2)	0 (0)
Totals:	69 (28)	0 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



*Data prior to 1932 unavailable
*Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965